



James Edward. France.

HIS MAJESTY'S

MOST GRACIOUS

DECLARATION.

JAMES R.



JAMES the Third, by the Grace of GOD, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all Our loving Subjects, of what Degree or Quality soever, Greeting. The Love and Affection We bear to Our native Country, are so natural and inherent to Us, that they could never be altered or diminished by a long and remote Exile, nor the many Hardships We have undergone during the whole Course of our Life; and We almost forget Our own Misfortunes, when We consider the Oppression and Tyranny

Tyranny under which Our Country has laboured so long. We have seen Our People, for many Years, groaning under the Weight of most heavy Taxes, and bearing many of the Calamities of War, while the rest of *Europe* enjoyed all the Blessings of Peace. We have seen the Treasures of the Nation applied to satiate private Avarice, and lavished for the Support of **German Dominions**, or for carrying on of ambitious Views, always foreign, and often contrary to the true Interest of the Nation. We have since seen the Nation involved in Wars, which have been, and are carried on without any Advantage to *Britain*, and even to the manifest Detriment and Discouragement of its Trade, and a great Body of **Danubians** taken into the *English* Pay and Service, in a most extraordinary Manner, and at a most expensive Rate; nor could We behold, without Indignation, the Preference and Partiality shewn on all Occasions to these **Foreigners**, and the notorious Affronts put on the *British* Troops. We have beheld with Astonishment, an universal Corruption and Dissolution of Manners, encouraged and countenanced by those, whose Example and Authority should have been employed to repress it, and a more than tacite Connivance given to all Irreligion and Immorality. **Bribery** and **Corruption** have been openly and universally practised, and no Means neglected to seduce the great Council of the Nation, that it might be the more effectually enslaved by those who ought to be the Guardians of its Liberty. The Manufactures of *England* are visibly going to Decay, Trade has been neglected, and even discouraged, and the very Honour of the Nation made a Sacrifice to the Passions of those who govern it.

THE unhappy State, to which Our Subjects have been reduced by these and many other unjust and violent Proceedings, has constantly filled Our Royal Heart with Grief and Concern, while Our whole Thoughts and Study have been employed towards procuring the most speedy and effectual Remedy to th

which We were always sensible could only be compassed by Our Restoration. This has ever been the principal View of the several Attempts We have made for the Recovery of Our just Rights, without being discouraged by the Disappointments with which We have hitherto met; but tho' Providence has permitted that Iniquity and Unjustice should long prevail, We have all Reason to hope, that the Time is at last come, in which the divine Mercy will put a Period to these Misfortunes. We see, with a sensible Satisfaction, the Eyes of the greatest Part of Our People opened, and their present deplorable Situation, and that they are convinced they can find no Relief but by restoring their natural born PRINCE, whose undoubted Title will of Course put an End to the many Calamities they have suffered during the *Usurpation*; and Our Satisfaction would be complete, could We owe our mutual Happiness to Ourselves and Subjects alone, without the Assistance of any Foreign Power; but should We find it necessary to employ any such, let Our good Subjects be assured, it is only to protect Ourselves and them against those Shoals of *Foreign Mercenaries*, with which the *Electors* fills the Kingdom when ever he thinks himself in Danger; and therefore, to disperse all Fears and Jealousies from the Hearts and Minds of Our Subjects, and to convince them, as much as in Us lies, of the Happiness they may enjoy under Our Government, We have thought fit to unfold to them, in this solemn and publick Manner, the sincere Sentiments of Our royal and truly *English* Heart.

WE hereby grant a free, full and general Pardon for all Offences whatsoever hitherto committed against Our royal FATHER, or Ourselves, to the Benefit of which We shall deem justly intitled, all such of Our Subjects as shall, after our appearing in Arms by Ourselves, Our dearest SON the PRINCE of *WALES*, Our Deputies, or the Commanders of Our auxiliary Forces, testifying their Willingness to accept of it, either by joining Our Troops with all convenient Diligence,

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Diligence, by setting up Our Standard in other Places, by repairing to any Place where it shall be put up, or at least by openly renouncing all pretended Allegiance to the Usurper, and all Obedience to his Order, or those of any Person or Persons commissioned or employed by him.

AS soon as the publick Tranquillity shall permit, We solemnly promise to call and assemble a free Parliament, wherein no Corruption, nor undue Influences of any Kind whatsoever, shall be used to byass the Votes of the Electors, or the Elected; and, with a sincere and impartial Advice and Concurrence of the said Parliament, We shall be ready to settle all that may relate to the Welfare of the Kingdom, both in Civil and Ecclesiastical Matters.

WE solemnly promise to protect, support and maintain the *Church of England*, as by Law established, in all her Rights, Privileges, Possessions and Immunities whatsoever; and We shall, on all Occasions, bestow Marks of Our royal Favour on the whole Body of the Clergy, but more particularly on those whose Principles and Practices shall best correspond with the Dignity of their Profession. We also solemnly promise to grant and allow the Benefit of a Toleration to all Protestant Dissenters, being utterly averse to all Persecution and Animosity on account of Conscience and Religion.

AND as We are desirous to reign chiefly over the Affections of Our People, We shall be utterly averse to the suspending the *Habeas Corpus* Act, as well as to the loading Our Subjects with unnecessary Taxes, or raising any in a Manner burdensom to them, and especially to the introducing of foreign Excises, and to all such Methods as may have been hitherto devised and pursued to acquire Arbitrary Power, at the Expence of the Liberty and Property of the Subject.

IT is Our fixed Resolution and Intention, to distinguish, recompense and employ Men of Merit and Probity, who are true Lovers of their Country, and of the Church of *England* as by Law established: By such a Conduct, We hope the native Genius and Honour of the Nation may be soon retrieved; and that those Party Prejudices, Divisions and Distinctions, which have so long prevailed, and have been so pernicious to the Nation, may be buried in perpetual Oblivion.

AS for the foreign Troops employed in the present Expedition, effectual Care shall be taken to make them observe the strictest Discipline while they stay, without offering the least Injury to peaceable People; and we solemnly engage to send them home as soon as the publick Tranquility shall be judged by Parliament to allow of it, and even before a Parliament is assembled, if the Posture of Affairs shall permit it.

IN the mean Time, We strictly charge and require all Persons, who at the first News of Our Troops entering the Kingdom, shall be seized of any Sum or Sums of Money, raised in the Name and for the Use of the *Usurper*, to keep the same in their Hands, to be accompted for to Us, or to pay it, when required, into the Hands of any Person of Distinction, publicly appearing and acting for Our Service, whose Receipt shall be a sufficient Discharge for the said Person or Persons, their Heirs, &c. But if they shall refuse or neglect to comply with these Our Orders, We hereby authorise and require all Our Generals, Lieutenant-Generals, and other Officers, and all Our faithful Adherents, to seize, for Our Use, such Sum or Sums of Money, as well as all Horses, Arms, Artillery, Accoutrements and Ammunition, Forage and Provisions, as shall be found in the Hands of those who shall not be willing to employ them in Our Service.

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WE also command and require all those who bear any Military Commission of Arms, whether in the Fleet, Army or Militia, to use and employ them for Our Service; since they cannot but be sensible, that no Engagements, entred into with a **Foreign Usurper**, can dispense with the Allegiance they owe to Us their natural Sovereign. And, as a farther Encouragement to them to comply with their Duty and our Commands, We promise to every such Officer, the same, or a higher Post, in Our Service, than that which they at present enjoy, with full Payment of whatever Arrears may be due to them at the Time of their declaring for Us, and to every Soldier, Trooper and Dragoon, who shall join Us, as well as to every Seamen and Mariner of the Fleet, who shall declare for and serve Us, all their Arrears, and a whole Years Pay to be given each of them as a Gratuity, as soon as ever the Kingdom shall be in a State of Tranquillity.

AND, *lastly*, that this Undertaking may be accompanied with as little present Inconveniency as possible to Our Subjects, We hereby authorise and require all civil Officers and Magistrates, now in Place and Office, to continue, till farther Order, to execute their respective Employments in Our Name and by Our Authority, and to give strict Obedience to such Orders and Directions as may be issued out by those who will be vested with our Authority and Power.

IT is a Subject of unspeakable Concern to Us, to find Ourselves, by a Complication of different Circumstances, under an absolute Impossibility of heading, Ourselves, this just and glorious Undertaking, for the Relief and Happiness of Our Country. But We are in Hopes that the Youth and Vigour of Our dearest SON, the PRINCE of *WALES*, may abundantly enable Him to supply Our Place. And therefore We have invested Him with the Title and Power of Regent of all
Our

Our Dominions, until such Time as We can ourselves arrive in them, which We shall do with all possible Speed.

HAVING thus sincerely, and in the Presence of Almighty GOD, declared Our true Sentiments and Intentions in this Expedition, We once more charge and require all Our loving Subjects to concur with Us, to the utmost of their Power, towards obtaining such desirable Ends; for those who shall wilfully persist in their unnatural Attachment to the **Usurper**, and continue to act in consequence of it, they cannot but be sensible that they are to expect no Benefit from a Pardon so graciously offered to them. But We heartily wish none such may be found, but that all may be as ready to accept of an Act of Grace and Oblivion as We are to grant it, it being Our earnest Desire, that the very Memory of past Misfortunes and Errors may be effaced, and that no Obstacle may remain to a perfect Union betwixt KING and People, which will be the more easily compassed, when they compare what they have suffered under the Dominion of **Foreigners**, with what We here offer to them, and are firmly resolved to perform. Let therefore all true *Englishmen* join with Us on this Occasion in their Country's Cause, and be fully convinced, that We neither do nor shall propose to ourselves any other Happiness or Glory, but what shall arise from Our effectually providing for the Honour and Welfare of the Nation, and maintaining every Part of its happy Constitution both in Church and State.

*Given under Our Sign Manual and Privy Signet, the 23^d
Day of December 1743.*

J. R.



